

APRIL 3, 2012

Virginia: At a Special Meeting of the Council for the Town of Chatham, held in the Council Room of the Town Hall, at 6:00 PM on April 3, 2012.

Present: Joseph H. Rogers, Mayor

Council Members: Janet Bishop, William Black, and Andrew Wall.

Absent: Roy Byrd, Alvin Crider, and Robert Thompson.

Attorney: Larry Gott.

On a motion by Bishop seconded by Wall council approved the agenda.

The Vote: Aye: Council members; Bishop, Black, and Wall.

Mayor Rogers stated that the purpose of the meeting was to determine if council would be willing to support a plan being developed by Chatham First to possibly save the Old Chatham Elementary School from being auctioned by Pittsylvania County.

He said that most recently the County Board of Supervisors agreed to a request by Supervisors Bowman and Barksdale to reconsider the plan to auction the building and the BOS offered one last opportunity for some entity to come forward with a plan. Barring an acceptable plan, action to auction the building will resume. After consideration, Chatham First decided to try to salvage prior attempts to reach agreement with a developer desiring to put luxury apartments on the site by developing a plan. That plan needs town support. In order to stop the auction an acceptable plan must be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on April 17, 2012.

Ron Brown, President of Chatham First, stated that the organization wishes to act as an intermediary with a potential developer for possible development of the school property. The

developer is to potentially invest approximately \$3MM in the property.

Brown said that if the Supervisors accept the plan the Town of Chatham, at no point, would have any ownership interest in the school.

The plan from Chatham First would offer the County reimbursement of current cost of \$9,700. for a survey and the environmental study that was conducted.

There are two abandoned fuel tanks at the school with a possible cost of \$13,000 for removal and clean up. The county has not yet committed for that expense. The removal of the tanks is part of the Chatham First plan.

The front end monetary commitment by Chatham First would possibly be \$22,700.

Chatham First will facilitate their plan with the County and the developer, Echelon.

The agreement, which is being written by Attorney Tim Fisk, requests that the county, in return for the reimbursements, allow the developer 180 days to obtain qualifying grants and necessary financing to rehabilitate the school in a manner satisfactory to the county and to the Town of Chatham.

At the end of the 180 day period, if the developer cannot qualify or raise funds for financing, the contract would be null and the county would possibly keep the \$9,700 reimbursement and auction the property as it sees fit.

If the developer delivers under the contract, the county would deed the school to Chatham First then, in turn, to Echelon.

President Brown requested that the Town of Chatham make a contribution to Chatham First, a 501c.(3) organization in an amount up to \$15,000. to help cover their cost. Brown, also, requested a resolution from council in support of their action plan.

On a motion by Bishop seconded by Wall council approved a contribution of up to \$15,000 to Chatham First in direct response to the request from that organization for its operational use.

The Vote: Aye: Council members; Bishop, and Wall.

Abstain: Black. Councilman Black abstained due to membership

in Chatham First.

Having no further business council was adjourned.

Mayor

Attest: